From: Colorín Colorado
To: saucedo_j@cde.state.co.us
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ELL News Blast

Weekly headlines from ColorinColorado.org

February 15, 2019

Thank you for subscribing to this weekly news service from Colorín Colorado! Each weekday, we gather interesting news headlines about English language learners and related topics. Please note that Colorín Colorado does not necessarily endorse these views or any others on these outside websites.

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OPINION: How one school came together to create a safe place for immigrants
The Hechinger Report

Jordan Weymer is principal of the Donald McKay K-8 School in East Boston. In this op-ed, Jordan writes, "Every child deserves a high-quality education that recognizes and respects his or her dignity and humanity, and that relishes in the stories of school and community. That's why teachers and schools like ours across the country are doing their life's work, nurturing the dreams of students in the heart of an immigrant community."

Baltimore County schools are rapidly adding students. More than half are immigrants or speak another language.
The Washington Post

Baltimore County's school system is absorbing a wave of immigrants that has fueled rising enrollments the past few years, adding thousands of students who teachers say are enriching their schools but also stretching the system to find additional seats and new ways to teach them. While the largest number of

foreign-born students are from Central America, the newcomers are from around the world. The second-most commonly spoken foreign language in Baltimore County schools after Spanish is Yoruba, a language of Nigeria. Across the system, students come from 116 countries and speak 97 different languages.

Oge Mora Talks with Roger
Horn Book

Debut picture book creator Oge Mora hails from Columbus, now lives in Providence, and was kind enough to take the train up for a little talk with Roger. We discuss her book, *Thank You, Omu!*, which recently won a Caldecott Honor Award and the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Illustrator Award.

New books alert: Writing advice, Latinx teens on a road trip, Muslims in love, and so much more
School Library Journal

Take a look at some of the upcoming titles for teens from School Library Journal.

Picture Books That Bring Black Heroes to Life
The New York Times

African-American picture books have always been successful at capturing the breadth, depth and beauty of the black experience, allowing children to gain much-needed access to the strong legacy and vibrant history of African-American art and storytelling. But how we present this story is always undergoing revision and refinement, as four new books — from a closer view of plantation life to a visually rich depiction of the history of hip-hop — show. In these books, word and art combine to give us fresh insight into the lives, creativity and achievements of a truly resilient and profound people.

Democrats in Congress Introduce Legislation to Ban ICE Agents From Schools, Bus Stops
Education Week

Democrats in the U.S. House have introduced legislation that would bar immigration agents from conducting arrests, interviews, searches, or surveillance at schools and school bus stops, except in extreme circumstances. The Protecting Sensitive Locations Act would enshrine "sensitive locations" guidelines for ICE in federal law and expand the list of locations that would be banned from ICE activity to include bus stops with children, as well as federal, state and local courthouses.

For Valentine's Day, Enjoy Student Podcasts About Love

Education Week

In the spirit of Valentine's Day, one kindergarten teacher is having her students tell her what they love about themselves in the form of a podcast.

Strike over: Denver school district, teachers union signed tentative pact
Chalkbeat Colorado

The Denver school district and teachers union have reached an agreement in their long-simmering dispute over teacher pay, ending a strike as it entered its fourth day. The tentative deal gives teachers significant raises and a more traditional pay system, while keeping incentives for teachers at high-poverty schools that the district believes are essential.

California governor taps renowned educator Linda Darling-Hammond to head state Board of Education
The Washington Post

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) just tapped Linda Darling-Hammond, a giant in the world of education, to head the 11-member state Board of Education. During his first State of the State address Tuesday, Newsom announced that Darling-Hammond would work alongside the newly elected state superintendent, Tony Thurmond, to help "confront" problems plaguing California's public schools.

Review: Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich
American Indians in Children's Literature

Debbie Reese reviews the new book "Fighter in Velvet Gloves: Alaska Civil Rights Hero Elizabeth Peratrovich", whose testimony led to the passing of the Alaska Anti-Discrimination Act, America's first civil rights legislation. Today, Alaska celebrates Elizabeth Peratrovich Day every February 16, and she will be honored on the gold one-dollar coin in 2020.

Schools in England Introduce a New Subject: Mindfulness
The New York Times

Students in England already learn about mathematics, science and history, but hundreds of schools are preparing to expand the traditional curriculum with a new subject: mindfulness. In up to 370 English schools, students will start to practice mindfulness as part of a study to improve youth mental health, the British government said on Monday. They will work with mental health experts to learn relaxation techniques, breathing exercises and other methods to "help them regulate their emotions," the government said in a news release announcing the program."

Undergraduate students engage with Latino farmworker community through

course
Penn State University

Because of significant labor shortages, Pennsylvania's dairy farms rely on Spanish-speaking immigrants as a key source of labor. However, cultural differences and language barriers can leave employers and workers lost in translation, affecting workers' well-being and community connection, and ultimately, farm viability. A new, innovative community service-learning course — "Service-Learning with Pennsylvania Farmworkers" — offered by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences is aimed at breaking down those barriers.

New resources for colleges to benefit deaf children using English as an additional language
FE News (UK)

New resources will be available for nurseries, schools and colleges to benefit 6,500 deaf children using English as an additional language. A new booklet and video are being launched with practical advice and strategies for teachers and education professionals to help children overcome these challenges and learn at the same pace as their hearing classmates. These resources are free of charge and the National Deaf Children's Society is urging all schools who work with these deaf children to use them.

How a merit pay system lost support of Denver teachers and led to a strike
Chalkbeat (Colorado)

Jeff Buck was the very first teacher to sign up for Denver's revolutionary pay-for-performance system in 2005. More than 13 years later, he is one of a dozen teachers sitting in a conference room at an obscure school district building, trying to unravel what the system has become.

Opinion: 21 Savage and the Way We See Black Immigrants
The New York Times

Samuel Getachew is an Ethiopian-American high school student and poet, and a delegate to the International Congress of Youth Voices. In this commentary about the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrest of rapper 21 Savage, who is a British citizen, he writes, "In the legal saga surrounding 21 Savage, I found unexpected validation. Here is a public figure who is very much black, and also an immigrant — an image that we don't see enough and that I could have used when I was younger and grappling with my identity. It's clear to me that 21 Savage is an immigrant and a black man, and neither invalidates the other."

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